

**The Essex County Council (A133 Clacton Road,
A133 Colchester Road, Tye Road,
A1331 Link Road, Elmstead) (50mph Speed Limit) Order 202***

Statement of Reasons

The proposed implementation of a 50mph speed limit on the A133 (approaching the new roundabout junction), the new A1331 Link Road, and Tye Road is intended to provide an appropriate balance between the differing needs of road users, existing local communities, and the future residents of the emerging Garden Community. Speed was a key topic raised during early engagement, with views ranging from a desire for a faster 70mph dual carriageway to calls for a 30mph limit. The proposed 50mph limit represents a balanced and evidence-led compromise that reflects the road's intended function and layout, its surrounding land uses, and the safety needs of all users.

The A1331 Link Road is not designed to operate as a bypass that diverts all traffic around the Garden Community. Instead, it forms an integral part of the development's movement network and will serve the majority of vehicular access to the new community. It is not planned as a street or boulevard with a strong place-making role, but as a corridor to enable vehicular and public transport movement, alongside safe and accessible facilities for those walking, cycling and riding horses. This separation with safe and controlled crossing points is in accordance with Essex CC's Sustainable Movement (SM) Policy.

Road level crossing facilities for those walking, cycling, wheeling, and horse riding (a Toucan Crossing and a Pegasus Crossing) are included within the scheme. A 50mph speed limit will provide a safe compromise, between movement speed and catering to all potential users of the route. It reduces the risk and severity of collisions between users at the crossing points while maintaining reasonable journey times for drivers.

This approach supports the wider objective of creating a safe, inclusive transport environment for all users, particularly more vulnerable road users who will rely on these formal crossing points to access the Garden Community and surrounding areas.

It is also proposed to reduce the speed limit on the A133 Clacton Road approaches to the new roundabout. This will ensure that vehicle speeds are appropriately moderated when entering the roundabout from the currently derestricted 70mph dual carriageway sections. Aligning these approach speeds with the adjacent 50mph speed limit on the new A1331 Link Road will maintain highway safety, reduce braking severity, and create a more consistent driving environment. In the more immediate term, it will also help moderate vehicle speeds at the new roundabout junction during the evolution of the new community as the traffic movements change as the garden community develops through construction, early occupation phases and then fully open status with the completion of the connection to the A120 at the northern end of the link road.

While some consultees expressed a preference for a higher speed limit, the road's function within the Garden Community, the presence of road level controlled crossing points, and the proximity of existing and future residential areas mean that a 70mph speed limit would not be compatible with maintaining highway safety or the intended character of the route.

At the other end of the scale, a significantly lower speed limit would not reflect the strategic movement role of the A1331 which could lead to vehicle driver frustration, non-compliance to the speed limit, and increased journey times without proportionate safety or community benefits. The 50mph limit is supported by design guidance as an appropriate balance between safety and efficiency.